

H.A

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/757,173	MEISTER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James R. Harvey	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to interview conducted 5-16-05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-18.
3. The drawings filed on 14 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1-14-04
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5-16-05.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Rejoining of Previously Withdrawn Claim

-- Claim 12 is dependent upon claim 1 and is directed to an allowable product. Claim 12, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of an election requirement, is now subject to being rejoined. Claim 12 is hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability.

Since all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, the election requirement made in the Office action mailed on 3-2-05 is hereby withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312.

To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Lafferty on 5-16-05.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

-- Cancel claims 9, 19 and 20.

-- Replace Claims 1, 8, 14, 16 and 17 with newly amended claims 1, 8, 14, 16 and 17 as shown:

1. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly for use in an economy of space with an electrical system housing having an internal electrical system, said connector assembly releasably receiving physical and electrical couplings external to said electrical system housing, said connector assembly comprising:

a connector housing configured to be received by said electrical system housing;
an IR input connector housed within said connector housing;
an S-video input connector housed within said connector housing, said IR input
connector and said S-video input connector together having a first footprint on a system board of
said internal electrical system when coupled to said system board; and
a fiber optic input connector housed within said connector housing, said fiber optic input
connector having a second footprint when coupled to said system board, said first and second
footprints communicating with one another on said system board,
wherein electrical leads of said IR input connector and said S-video input connector in
said first footprint are displaced from electrical leads of said fiber optic input connector in said
second footprint when said IR input connector, said S-video input connector and said fiber optic
input connector are coupled to the internal electrical system within the electrical system housing;
wherein said connector housing includes a back plate coupled to a rear exterior of said
connector housing and a shroud extending rearward from said back plate, said electrical leads of
said fiber optic input connector extending through said back plate and to the exterior of said
shroud.

8. (Currently Amended) The connector assembly of Claim 1 wherein said electrical leads
of said fiber optic input connector extending to the exterior of said connector housing through
said rear exterior of said connector housing to at least partially define said second footprint on
said system board.

14. (Currently Amended) In a device comprising an electrical system housing having an internal electrical system, a connector assembly adapted to be received and retained in an economy of space by said device, said connector assembly for releasably receiving physical and electrical couplings external to said electrical system housing, said connector assembly comprising:

a connector housing configured to be received by said electrical system housing;

an IR input connector housed within said connector housing;

an S-video input connector housed within said connector housing, said IR input connector and said S-video input connector together having a first footprint on a system board of said internal electrical system when coupled to said system board; and

a fiber optic input connector housed within said connector housing, said fiber optic input connector having a second footprint on said system board when coupled to said system board, said first and second footprints on said system board communicating with one another,

wherein electrical leads of said IR input connector and said S-video input connector in said first footprint are displaced from electrical leads of said fiber optic input connector in said second footprint when said IR input connector, said S-video input connector and said fiber optic input connector are coupled to said internal electrical system within said electrical system housing of said subscriber device;

wherein said connector housing includes a back plate coupled to a rear exterior of said connector housing and a shroud extending rearward from said back plate, said electrical leads of said fiber optic input connector extending through said back plate and to the exterior of said shroud.

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16. (Twice Amended) A ~~connector—assembly comprising~~ connector assembly for use in an economy of space with a connector panel of an electrical system housing having an internal electrical system, said connector assembly for releasably receiving physical and electrical couplings external to the electrical system housing, said connector assembly comprising:

a connector housing configured to be received and retained in said connector panel of said electrical system housing,

an IR input connector housed within said connector housing;

an S-video input connector housed within said connector housing, said IR input connector and said S-video input connector together having a first footprint when coupled to a system board of said internal electrical system; and

a fiber optic input connector housed within said connector housing, said fiber optic input connector having a second footprint when coupled to said system board of said internal electrical system, said first and second footprints communicating with one another,

wherein said input connectors are housed together in said connector housing to permit maximum vertical spacing on said connector panel of said electrical system housing;

wherein said connector housing includes a back plate coupled to a rear exterior of said connector housing and a shroud extending rearward from said back plate, electrical leads of said fiber optic input connector extending through said back plate and to the exterior of said shroud.

17. (Currently Amended) The connector interface of Claim 16 wherein said first footprint is positioned adjacent ~~both~~ said connector panel, and said second footprint is displaced from said connector panel behind said first footprint.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not show a connector housing includes a back plate coupled to a rear exterior of the connector housing and a shroud extending rearward from the back plate, electrical leads of a fiber optic input connector extending through the back plate and to the exterior of the shroud in combination with all the other elements of the claim. Further, the examiner knows of no permissible motivation to combine the prior art such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The following is an examiner's summary of the interview: During the interview, it was agreed place the subject matter of claim 9 and the structure associated with the back plate and shroud into the independent claims to get the application in condition for allowance.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 571-272-2007. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.

- Effective **October 1, 2003**, all patent application related correspondence transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number, **(703) 872-9306**, with a few exceptions *See Fax Automation in Technology Center 1700, 1237 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 140 (August 29, 2000). Replies to Office actions including after-final amendments that are transmitted by facsimile must be directed to the central facsimile number. Unofficial correspondence such as draft proposed amendments for interviews may continue to be transmitted by facsimile to the Technology Centers.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh
May 16, 2005



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER